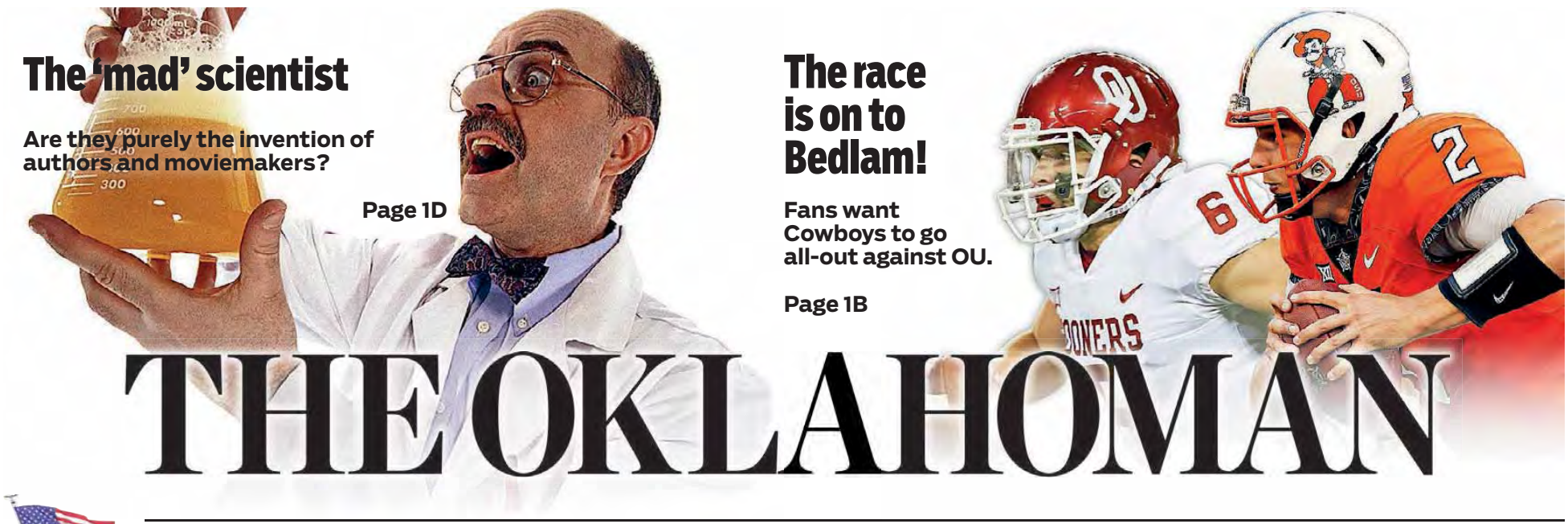

## The 'mad' scientist

Are they purely the invention of authors and moviemakers?

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## The race is on to Bedlam!

Fans want Cowboys to go all-out against OU.

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# 'STOP THE BLEEDING'

## House, Senate advance millions for agencies, but a gap remains

**BY DALE DENWALT**
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The Oklahoma House advanced several funding measures Monday for the state's three major health care agencies, but the money won't be enough to fill the $215 million shortfall that triggered a special session. A funding gap will remain, but the money is reportedly enough to keep the agencies afloat until April 21, well after lawmakers return in February for regular session.

SEE GAP, 3A

## Health department commissioner resigns

**BY BRIANNA BAILEY**
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Faced with a crisis after what it called "years of over-expenditures and fiscal mismanagement," the State Board of Health accepted the resignation of Commissioner Terry Cline during an emergency meeting Monday evening.

Cline's resignation comes after the board received information

SEE RESIGNS, 3A

## THIS HALLOWEEN, GO FOR A WALK WITH YOUR COSTUMED KIDS ... IN THE DARK

**Ken Raymond**
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PURELY SUBJECTIVE

The past few years I haven't been as enthusiastic about Halloween as I usually am. I think I've figured out why.

Last year, my wife Amy and I visited her parents the weekend before Halloween and joined them in their church's "Trunk or Treat" event. Everyone parked their cars, pulled out lawn chairs and gave candy to a parade of hundreds of children. It was bright and sunny out, too hot by my standards.

Most folks giving out candy had some sort of gimmick. The older couple next to us had a sort of bean bag toss; theoretically, kids who managed to lob a bean bag into a hole got more candy, but in practice everyone got the same amount. Halloween isn't a competitive sport, after all.

My wife's father Bill, who is a da Vinci of mechanical engineering, created a device out of an old STOP sign and some metal to scare the children a little. In order to reach the candy, they had to step onto the STOP sign, which triggered some store-bought Halloween decorations, making them cackle and shudder. Toddlers seemed most afraid of it; other children were so enamored of the shaking that they forgot to get candy, and we'd have to stop them before they hurried away.

SEE FRIGHTS, 2A

## Strip club a drug house, police say

**BY NOLAN CLAY**
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The owner of the Oklahoma City strip club Midway Island is being accused by police of allowing dancers there to openly sell cocaine, marijuana and other illegal drugs.

Heather Lane Billings, 43, was being sought Monday on a complaint of maintaining a drug house.

Police raided the strip club Friday, seizing property there and arresting two managers.

The undercover investigation of the club at 5215 NW 10 began in August 2016, according to a court affidavit. Police officers, posing as patrons, went inside close to 20 times.

Undercover officers during some visits purchased cocaine and marijuana from dancers, according to the affidavit.

A police informant sent into the club in March reported observing dancers "snorting lines of a white powdery substance, believed to be cocaine, near the main stage," according to the affidavit. A manager at the bar "simply shrugged his shoulders in an act of approval."

Dancers at times also offered to perform sex acts for pay, according to the affidavit. One dancer in January offered to have sex with two people "in exchange for $1,000."

"In conversation with ... dancers, general conversation would quickly turn to the topic of sex," a police detective wrote in the affidavit. "This may not be uncommon in a licensed gentleman's club.

SEE CLUB, 3A

## Mother of boy killed in crossbow incident worries about surviving son

**BY ROBERT MEDLEY**
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**WELLSTON** — The mother of a 10-year-old boy killed when another boy shot him with a crossbow said she is now worried about her surviving son's emotional recovery.

Elizabeth Conaway, 29, said her son Austin Almanza was a fifth-grader who loved basketball and history. Austin died earlier this month after being shot with a crossbow bolt. On Monday, the state Medical Examiner's office ruled Austin's death a homicide.

Conaway's other son, Ayden Almanza, 8, also was wounded Oct. 21, when a 13-year-old boy fired a bolt from a crossbow at Austin. The bolt went through Austin and struck Ayden in the arm. Ayden is expected to make a full physical recovery, Conaway said.

"I don't know about his emotional recovery," she said. "He was right there with him when it happened."

Ayden has not returned to school since his brother's death, she said.

On Monday, a spokeswoman with the Lincoln County District Attorney's office said prosecutors will not comment on the case because it is being investigated as a juvenile crime. Lincoln County Sheriff Charlie Dougherty said the death has been investigated as a homicide. Dougherty said there had been an argument before the 13-year-old boy fired the crossbow.

Conaway said she did not want to comment on her son's death, but she wants him remembered as always smiling and happy. His school teachers attended his recent funeral, she said.

"Austin was a wonderful child," Conaway said. "He's going to be missed by so many."

**Austin Almanza, right, was killed Oct. 21 by a crossbow bolt in Lincoln County. The boy's mother now worries about her surviving son, Ayden Almanza, left.** [PHOTO PROVIDED]

**TODAY'S PRAYER**
Almighty God, whenever I am afraid and have doubts, I will put my trust in You. Amen.


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| Business | 1C | Life | 1D |
| Classified | 1E | Opinion | 8A |
| Comics | 4E | Sports | 1B |
| Deaths | 6A | Stocks | 5C |


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